

From: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention an excerpt from a recent CRS report on Iran sanctions. The excerpt, below, notes the extensive economic relations between Armenia and Iran. The full CRS report can be found [here](#).

“Iran and Armenia—Azerbaijan’s adversary—have long enjoyed extensive economic relations: Armenia is Iran’s largest gas customer, after Turkey. In May 2009, Iran and Armenia inaugurated a natural gas pipeline between the two, built by Gazprom of Russia. No determination of ISA sanctions was issued. Armenia has said its banking controls are strong and that Iran is unable to process transactions illicitly through Armenia’s banks. However, observers in the South Caucasus assert that Iran has used Armenian banks operating in the Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh territory to circumvent international financial sanctions.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mark

Mark J. Tavlarides
Senior Vice President, International
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From: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark mtavlarides@bgrdc.com
Subject: Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention a recent article from *The American Spectator* titled, "[With Friends Like Armenia, Is Israel Safer?](#)" Paul Miller writes that "a careful look at Armenia's alliances reveals a disturbing picture." Despite the recent announcement by Armenia that it will open an embassy in Israel, Miller argues that Armenia's ties to nations like Lebanon, who is still in a state of war with Israel; Russia, who is leading an intervention in the Syrian Civil War; and Iran, for whom it may be helping out of U.S. sanctions, raise "serious concerns that should give the Jewish state pause before deepening ties." Miller also notes the high levels of anti-Semitism reported in Armenia, warning Israel that it should remain concerned and vigilant regarding its ties with Armenia.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
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From: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 2:28 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Supporting peace and security in the Arabian Gulf

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention an op-ed in *The Washington Times* by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States Abdulla Bin Rashid Al Khalifa titled, "[Supporting peace and security in the Arabian Gulf](#)." Ambassador Al Khalifa noted that Bahrain is a key U.S. ally in the fight against terrorism and against Iranian aggression. Later this month, Bahrain will be hosting an international maritime security summit to strengthen partner capacity "to support peace and security in the Arabian Gulf and in the rest of the world."

Bahrain is host to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and Marine Forces Central Command and has been a key leader in maritime security and regional stability. Ambassador Al Khalifa noted that the summit, which will include many of the world's leading maritime forces, comes at a time when the world is facing threats to the safety of international navigation and also the security and stability of the region as a whole.

The full article can be found [here](#) and below.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mark

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Supporting peace and security in the Arabian Gulf

Bahrain hosts summit to unite counterterrorist forces

By Abdulla Bin Rashid Al Khalifa

Sunday, October 13, 2019

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

The [Kingdom of Bahrain](#) is an important U.S. ally in the fight to combat terrorism. We oppose Iranian regime aggression and work with our partners to maintain the free-flowing exchange of goods worldwide. That is why [Bahrain](#) is hosting a highly anticipated international maritime security summit later this month in which its partners will further strengthen their capacity to support peace and security in the Arabian Gulf and in the rest of the world.

Originally announced in Washington on July 17 by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed al Khalifa and U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook, [Bahrain's](#) Oct. 21-22 international maritime security summit will coincide with the first two days of the world's largest maritime exercise, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command's International Maritime Exercise (IMX) 19.

The United States has described the exercise as "the world's most inclusive maritime exercise, designed to strengthen relationships, foster interoperability among supporting forces, and enhance theater-wide maritime security operations." The purpose of the event, according to the Navy, is that "by working together as a coalition, all nations build familiarity with global partners and the shipping industry, with the goal of deterring threats to the freedom of navigation."

The kingdom is home to thousands of U.S. military personnel and their families, including, for the last quarter century, the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and Marine Forces Central Command. These U.S. personnel see firsthand that [Bahrain](#) is a beacon of stability and strength in an otherwise unpredictable and tumultuous region. Indeed, [Bahrain](#) has long been praised for our leadership in supporting international coalitions, especially those working in partnership with the U.S. to protect Gulf shipping and to contain the dangerous Iranian regime.

[Bahrain's](#) international maritime summit will convene many of the world's leading maritime forces — similar to February's Warsaw Summit that included more than 60 countries — to promote freedom of navigation and the free flow of maritime commerce as well as the detection of threats emanating from an increasingly belligerent Iranian government.

Such an alliance could not come at a more crucial time. Recent attacks along key maritime transit routes in the Gulf — specifically in the vital Strait of Hormuz — have undermined the safety of international navigation and created instability in the region. Likewise, last month's attack on oil facilities in neighboring Saudi Arabia sent shockwaves throughout the world, causing oil prices to spike. Taken together, what we see is not just a series of isolated events or individual attacks, but rather a larger, concerted effort by a hostile power to sew discord and wreak havoc worldwide.

While the people of [Bahrain](#) personally understand the threats of an aggressive Iranian regime, they, like President Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, know it is important to distinguish between the Iranian regime and the Iranian people. It is our belief that the Iranian people deserve a better quality of life and better governors.

Last month, the U.S. Congress approved a large arms sale to [Bahrain](#). This was not a surprise. The United States designated [Bahrain](#) a Major Non-NATO Ally in 2002 and Bahraini forces have long supported the

International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. [Bahrain](#) was the first Arab state to lead a Coalition Task Force patrolling the Gulf.

To that end, [Bahrain](#) will continue to be a key player in the Gulf for like-minded coalition members and other open-minded governments. We will host more constructive conversations and continue to create alliances against terrorists and those who support them. [Bahrain](#) is proud of its history and its commitment to security in the Gulf region and beyond. The upcoming international maritime security summit is just the latest example and won't be the last.

- *H.E. Abdulla Bin Rashid Al Khalifa is the ambassador of the [Kingdom of Bahrain](#) to the United States.*

From: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention a recent [episode](#) of the CBS drama SEAL Team that screened the support of elite U.S. forces to help protect an Azerbaijani power plant from a potential attack by Armenian loyalists, Shiite militia, or foreign powers looking to reduce American influence in the region. The scene emphasizes the strategic role of Azerbaijan as “our only ally in the Caspian Sea and a deterrent to unaligned powers in the area.” The clip can be found [here](#).

I also wanted to flag an article from JNS titled, “[Azerbaijani national hero provides a paradigm for Jewish-Muslim relations](#).” The article notes the new monument in Baku, Azerbaijan in commemoration of Albert Agarunov, a proud Jewish citizen who died in the 1988-1994 Nagorno-Karabakh war trying to save his fellow soldiers. Additionally, the article notes that many people cite Agarunov’s story “as a sign that Azerbaijan’s Jews are integrated as citizens with the same rights and responsibilities as their Muslim compatriots.” The full article can be found [here](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
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